The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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BIG MEETING TO MARK GOMPERS' HOME-COMING

New York, Oct. 19.—The American Alliance for Labor and Democracy has arranged for a national mass meeting in Chicago to welcome President Gompers on his return from Europe and to hear the story of his observances in the countries allied with America in the present war. The date for the meeting has been set for November 8, although this is announced as provisional.

Invitations have been extended to the president and his cabinet, state governors, advisory commission of the council of national defense, national war labor board, A. F. of L. executive council, officers of national and international unions, railroad brotherhoods, state federations of labor, city central bodies, all branches of the Alliance for Labor and Democracy and other men and women "representative of the life of the American democracy."

The alliance has named an advisory committee of 52, which includes members of the A. F. of L. executive council, other trade unionists, Frank P. Walsh, of the national war labor board; Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the war industries board; V. Everit Macy of the national civic federation; Charles S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union; John Hays Hammond, August Belmont, George W. Perkins, Alton B. Parker and others.

In announcing the meeting, the alliance says:

"President Gompers will return from Europe after having performed an unusual service for America. All America will want to know what he has to say; all America will want to welcome him back to America. He will return with a great message for all of our people and only by holding a great national meeting such as we have arranged can his message be properly got to the citizens of the country.

"By bringing to Chicago representative men and women from various sections of the country the spirit of President Gompers' message will go throughout the country as it could in no other way."

MORE THAN BUSINESS.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 19—The Journal of Labor resents the theory that the labor movement is "a cold-blooded business proposition," and takes a sly dig at unthinking trade unionists who occasionally express this sentiment. The editor of the Journal of Labor says:

"Employers who persist in contending against organized labor fool themselves into believing it is merely a business proposition—involving only dollars and cents, and that when they temporarily win over the workers they have saved some money in the matter of wages. This is a sad mistake that time alone will cure. The labor movement is only incidentally a movement for raising wages—only incidentally a cold business proposition—it is, on the other hand, a psychological movement, a spiritual growth, a humane impulse. The activities of the labor movement spring from the highest and best in the hearts and minds of its members.

"The best thought of the world is coming to the labor viewpoint. Dollars-and-cents value will not always control."

UNCOVER GERMAN PLOT.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The alien property custodian has taken over the Bridgeport (Conn.) Projectile company and has bared attempts by Germany to use the company to prevent the manufacture and shipment of arms and munitions to the allies.

Government investigators found that after Germany discovered that propaganda and crime failed to prevent the production of war munitions by this country the Teutons conceived the idea of creating an American corporation, apparently dominated and controlled by loyal American citizens, ostensibly for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of munitions on an enormous scale. The real purpose was to hamper and hinder, if not prevent altogether, other American manufacturers from making munitions for what Germany then considered to be the probable duration of the war.

It was found that the German government furnished the money to equip the company and that the company made a contract with German agents not to sell munitions to any country with which Germany was at war.

UNVEIL KIRBY MONUMENT.

Indianapolis, Oct. 19.—A magnificent monument to the memory of the late James Kirby was dedicated by the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. At the time of his death, three years ago, deceased was president of this organization and was former president of the building trades department A. F. of L. The unveiling ceremonies were in charge of President Hutcheson of the brotherhood. The other speakers were General Secretary Frank Duffy of the brotherhood, President Donlin of the building trades department A. F. of L., and Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L.

AWARDED 48 CENTS A WEEK.

Altoona, Pa., Oct. 19.—Compensation of 48 cents a week has been awarded Ralph Carbone by a state compensation referee. Carbone was injured last year, receiving compensation until June 1, 1918. Before the accident his weekly wage was $20.46. Since then he has been employed on a railroad at $19.50 a week. His loss in earning power is 96 cents a week and the compensation referee rules that according to law one-half of this must be paid by the insurance carrier.

TO PUBLISH LIVING COSTS.

Sioux City, Iowa, Oct. 19—Officers of the Iowa state federation of labor request affiliates to assist in the federation's publication of a leaflet containing prices of foodstuffs and other commodities in common use in this state. The appointment of committees is asked and one day is set aside that the comparisons may be uniform.

PRISONERS ON ROADS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 19.—Prisoners from the Beaver and Dauphin county jails are working on state roads. The state highway commissioner wants to make arrangements with more counties for the same kind of workers.

1,000 NEW MEMBERS.

Seattle, Oct. 19—A sharp organizing campaign has netted the longshoremen's union 1,000 new members and makes this calling 100 per cent union along the Seattle water front.

TO "DILUTE" TRADES IS U. S. WAR POLICY

Washington, Oct. 19.—Jurisdiction claims and standards of competency of organized workers will be effected by the training and dilution service of the department of labor, which has perfected plans to "dilute" trades by the rapid development of workers who will be placed in war production.

Charles T. Clayton is director of this service, assisted by H. E. Miles as chief of training. The latter is a former director of the national association of manufacturers.

In explaining the theory of "dilution" Mr. Miles says:

"Dilution is simply the bringing into any trade that has been presumably adequately manned in peace times enough new people to offset the loss by draft and to produce the essential output required for the winning of the war. It means, also, the restricting of skilled workers to processes which only they can do and committing other elements to workers of lesser experience.

"Our man-power has been depleted. To supply losses of hundreds of thousands of skilled workers we must first promote every skilled man left so that he may do the most difficult work within his ability. Second, we must bring into the factories men from the nonessential trades and obtain from them the highest service they can perform. Third, we must bring in women to supplement but not to supplant men. The factories in England and France have been operated for the last four years mostly by old men, by men unfit for war and by women.

"The imperative need now is that every manufacturer shall realize that he must train new hands. The time has gone by when any factory can hope to replace skilled men by others already skilled, and each must provide experts to teach the recruits who will be called to fill vacancies."

WILD OPIUM YARN DENIED.

Washington, Oct. 19—The war department denies wild rumors of drug addicts in the army and among rejected registrants. Army officials say:

"Statements that at east 1,500,000 persons in the United States are drug addicts; that 1,000,000 such persons are known in their respective communities, and that in New York alone the number of drug addicts between the former draft ages of 21 and 31 was estimated at 200,000 have been current. It has also been said that men included in the draft subsequently develop the drug in order to avoid military service.

"The records of the surgeon general's office show that of a total of 190,592 men examined in the draft up to December 31, 1917, a total of 403 were rejected for drug addiction. To these men may be added 76 men discharged for drug addiction after induction and enlistment in the service. The latter number includes national guard, national army and regulars. From the figures given it may be said that there is no evidence in the possession of the war department to show that there is an excessive use of drugs by enlisted men and officers of the army. The ratio of rejections from the draft represents one rejection in about 2,500 men."

BAKERS RAISE WAGES.

San Antonio, Tex., Oct. 19.—Organized bakers have raised wages of bench men to $19 a week, and oven men and foreman to $28. Former rates ranged from $13.50 to $16.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 19.—A minimum wage of $35 a week for foremen and oven men has been established by Bakers' union No. 167. A few months ago rates were advanced to $30, but the bakers insist on "marking time" with the increased cost of living.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 19.—The big plant of the Campbell Bakery company has been unionized by the Bakers' union. An agreement with Bakery Salesmen's union No. 335 has also been signed.

DRASTIC FOOD RULES.

Washington, Oct. 19—The 9,000,000 Americans who eat in hotels, restaurants, clubs and dining cars are affected by 12 general orders announced by Food Administrator Hoover, effective October 21. Bakery products must contain at least 20 per cent wheat substitutes and only one kind of meat is allowed at a meal. Butter is limited to one-half ounce per meal per person. Sugar bowls are banished from the tables of these eating places and one teaspoonful of sugar is to be the allowance for each meal, and that only when the customer requests it. Bread and butter will not be served except on request and never put on the table until the first course is served. Elaborate banquets and luncheons are forbidden.

ACTIVE IN OSHKOSH.

Oshkosh, Wis., Oct. 19—The trades and labor council is behind a labor forward movement and has appointed a committee to bring the message of unionism to the unorganized.

Moline, Ill., Oct. 19.—Trade unionists in this city, Rock Island and Moline have organized a forward movement. Officers of national and international unions are assisting.

"TOM" SAVAGE IS DEAD.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Thomas J. Savage, member of the general executive board International Association of Machinists and member of the national war labor board, died in this city after a five-days' illness with influenza and pneumonia. He leaves a wife and three children. The remains were interred at Little Falls, R. I.

TO WORK ON SATURDAY.

San Francisco, Oct. 19.—The Pacific coast district metal trades council has instructed affiliates to notify their members to remain at work on Saturday afternoons until a wage board of the United States shipping board renders its decision.

WOMEN ARE UNITING.

Leavenworth, Kan., Oct. 19.—At a meeting of the state federation of labor's executive board it was reported that working women in this state are taking an interest in unionism and large numbers are affiliating with organized labor.

CIGAR MAKERS WANT MORE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 19.—A general wage increase to meet present living costs is urged by Cigar Makers' union No. 186.

RAILROAD SHOP MEN GAIN.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Director General of Railroads McAdoo has acted on the complaint of organized railroad shop men that his recent wage award was unfair to many of these employes.

The award excluded from the 68-cent minimum such highly skilled workers as pattern makers, cabinet makers, coach builders, painters and upholsterers, who were placed in the 58-cent class. The director general now orders that these workers be paid the 68-cent rate, and that an additional 2½ cents an hour be paid to blacksmiths on heavy work and boiler makers employed as flangers and layers out, making their rate 70½ cents. This 2½ cent increase also applies to all operators on acetylene and electric welding machines. Freight train steel car body builders and repairers are advanced from 58 to 63 cents. Helpers in the basic trades, who have been paid 22 cents and upward, are all advanced 13 cents an hour.

These equalizations remove many complaints by the shop men who show, for instance, that while pattern makers were to receive only 58 cents under the award complained of, they are being paid 75 cents and upward in ship yards and commercial shops.

When the award was made, several months ago, railroad managers held that it only applied to mechanics working in shops and round houses and not to men doing similar work on bridges, maintenance of way, and elsewhere. The director general orders that the rates apply to all mechanics doing the same class of work under jurisdiction of the United States railroad administration.

PLAN FOR AFTER-WAR TRADE.

Washington, Oct. 19.—In a report issued by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce, it is stated that the time is ripe for more centralized, concerted work on a program of economic reconstruction after the war.

"The outstanding fact under observation," states the report, "is the recognition in every land by all statesmen of the problem called 'economic reconstruction.' But of more immediate importance is the fact that England, France, Italy, Germany and Austria are making preparations to resume their peaceful economic life, with improved facilities for foreign trade, with a national supervision of the use of natural resources for the benefit of their own citizens and with assistance from the state."

Attention is called to the work of our own government along this line, including the building up of a merchant fleet. Bureau officials express the opinion that England looks upon any effort to lay down hard and fast policies as a waste of time, and is devoting her efforts to assembling facts.

INSISTS ON AWARD.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Joint Chairmen Taft and Walsh of the national war labor board insist that an award in the case of New Orleans street car men be complied with in all its features. Wages of motormen and conductors were advanced 70 per cent and it was recommended that the company be permitted to raise fares. New Orleans trade unionists are opposing this latter provision and it is stated that the street car men are aiding the agitation.

In a letter to John R. Alpine, acting president A. F. of L., and Wm. D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, Messrs. Taft and Walsh call attention to a proposed mass meeting in New Orleans to protest against raising fares.

"If this action is taken by the labor organizations," say the joint chairmen, "it would seem that in justice we shall be compelled to suspend the entire award, including the increase in wages, pending a re-hearing of this matter, which we now have under advisement. We trust that you will take whatever action you may be advised will fit the situation."

FATALITIES DECREASE.

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 19.—The state department of labor and industries' report on industrial accidents for September includes one fatal accident to a woman who was employed in a saw mill, the first fatality to a woman who has replaced a man in an essential industry.

The total number of accidents for the month show a reduction from the high mark of August, 2,525, as compared with 2,888. The metal industries were chiefly responsible for the reduction. It is possible that the federal government's safety program is beginning to show results.

WANT AGENCIES OUSTED.

Denver, Oct. 19.—At a meeting of representatives of public service organizations, including the United States employment service, a resolution was passed indorsing any movement "to close the private employment agencies in the state of Colorado."

It was shown that these establishments not only interfere with the state and government's employment services, but they are unnecessary, as they are less interested in securing workers for war production than they are in making money.

BINDERY GIRLS WIN.

Denver, Oct. 19.—Under the law of this state it is illegal to strike unless the matter is first presented to the state industrial commission. Organized bindery girls have negotiated for three months in an effort to raise wages. The girls finally decided to take charge of affairs and run the risk of being jailed. They "forgot" to report for work one morning and before that day's sun had set the employers accepted a new scale of $15 a week for skilled women binders and $18 for forewomen. The old rates were $13.50 and $15.

STATE FUND IS HEALTHY.

Madison, Wis., Oct. 19.—State insurance in Wisconsin has again demonstrated its success, despite efforts to discredit the state insurance fund, which has a balance of $141,025.87 with all losses paid. One year ago there was $110,868.44 in the fund. Friends of the state fund show that the amount set aside by the state for premiums is less than insurance companies set aside.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Washington, Pa., Oct. 19.—A short general strike has resulted in wage increases for machinists, cranemen, blacksmiths and electricians. Six months ago machinists worked nine hours at a 58-cent rate. Now their wage scale ranges from 75 to 81 cents an hour, with an eight-hour day.

EMPLOYERS REJECT FEDERAL PEACE PLAN

Minneapolis, Oct. 19—At a hearing in this city, conducted by the national war labor board, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison urged the board to take jurisdiction over the controversy between the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery company and its employes. The company is bitterly anti-union and insists on an alleged agreement between it, the state commission of public safety, the state board of arbitration and the executive board of the Minnesota state federation of labor, which provides, among other things, for the surrender of the right to strike. The unionists declare that their acceptance only extended to a discussion of the document and that it was so understood. Other concerns are involved in the controversy. Minnesota trade unionists are fearful of the state commission of public safety, which has assumed powers never intended when it was created by the state legislature. The commission has extended its authority until it can now do anything except remove three or four constitutional officers.

Secretary Morrison defended the position of the workers and quoted the A. F. of L. constitution to prove that they could take no other position because autonomy is guaranteed every affiliate and "state bodies are chartered for the purpose of securing legislation in the interest of the working classes." He pointed out that this alleged agreement was made 10 days after the president's proclamation defining the powers and duties of the national war labor board, which include the settlement "by arbitration and conciliation controversies arising between employers and workers in fields of production necessary for the effective conduct of the war, or in other fields of national activity, delays and obstructions in which might, in the opinion of the national board, affect detrimentally such production."

"Every position taken by employer and employed in these war times," said Secretary Morrison, "should be subjected to this acid test: Will it remove dissatisfaction and will it mean greater production?

"Why does this company refuse to submit this dispute with their employers to your board? Is it because they fear that your board will insist upon standards agreed to by the president, congress, Secretary of War Baker and Secretary of the Navy Daniels, and these established by your board, being put into effect in their factory?"

HIGH WAGES EMPTY JAILS.

Boston, Oct. 19.—There are fewer inmates in Massachusetts' penal institutions now than at any time during the past 40 years and there is talk of asking the next legislature to permit jails to consolidate—to "trustify" as it were—that unnecessary jails may be abandoned.

The number of arrests, however, continue large, although the commitments decrease. In 1915 there were 26,487 commitments; in 1916, 22,952, and in 1917, with the largest number of arrests ever recorded in the history of the state, there were 21,750 commitments.

State Director of Prisons Bagley says that one of the contributing causes for this condition is the demand for labor at high wages. Another cause is the tendency of courts to be lenient with offenders and the probation system has been used more extensively than ever before, 30,588 offenders having been placed on probation during the last year.

WANTS ALL IDLERS TO WORK.

Seattle, Oct. 19.—In a proclamation issued by Mayor Hanson the idle rich and the idle poor are called upon to go to work.

"The fact that a man or woman has money in his or her pocket and uses that as an excuse to be idle will find that that is not a sufficient reason," said the mayor.

"We propose to use our best efforts to clear the city of idlers, rich or poor. We must not have overcrowded rooming houses and hotels, etc., during this epidemic. Go to work and get out into the open air and stay well, and thus assist in winning this war. Other cities have passed anti-loafing ordinances, and the police have thrown out their drag-net and filled the jails. I trust this will not be necessary in Seattle."

BAN NEEDLESS BUILDING.

New York, Oct. 19.—Manufacturers, supply dealers and all others identified with the building industry are cautioned not to contract for or to issue any building material for non-war construction work in this city without a federal license obtained through the mayor's committee on national defense. No non-essential construction work of any nature, no matter how small or how large, or how much capital is involved, will be allowed until an application to start the work has been investigated and its merits as a material aid to further the nation's victory in the war is ascertained.

PROTECT PROFITEERS.

Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 19.—The state council of defense has suspended its order of August 15 making it compulsory for Arizona merchants to place the cost price and the selling price upon all their goods.

The council has refused to make public the roll call vote on its suspending order, although the attorney general ruled that "these matters are public records and should at all times during office hours be open to the inspection of all persons desiring to see the same."

RECALL "OLD TIMERS."

Washington, Oct. 19.—Railroad brotherhood executives are asked to assist the United States railroad administration in recalling to the service men who have been debarred because of age limits, physical examinations and the "reference system" operated by private management of the railroads.

WOOD WORKERS UNITE.

Kitchener, Canada, Oct. 19.—Over 1,000 wood workers have united. Fifteen years ago these workers were defeated in a strike and their union destroyed, but economic conditions now forced them to again organize.

FAVOR WAGE INCREASE.

Pittsburg, Kan., Oct. 19.—City Commissioner Nichols has recommended that wages of engineers and firemen employed at the municipal water plant be increased to 51½ and 40 cents an hour respectively.

STRONG 8-HOUR AWARD MADE BY LABOR BOARD

Washington, Oct. 19.—In an eight-hour award in the case of Foundry Employes' union No. 18 versus the American Locomotive company of Schenectady, N. Y., and two other cases, the national war labor board orders that in each establishment a permanent committee of four shall be created to fairly enforce the eight-hour decision. The committee shall consist of two employes and two company representatives, the decisions of any three of whom shall be binding.

This plan to give workers a greater influence in the making of working conditions was first announced by Chief Justice Clark of the North Carolina supreme court, acting as umpire for the board in the case of Wheeling (W. Va.) iron molders versus the Wheeling Mold and Foundry company. The full board now writes this theory into eight-hour decisions that effect the American Locomotive company, the Mason Machinery company of Taunton, Mass., and the United Engineering company of Youngston, Ohio.

In these cases the board rules that excessive overtime shall not be exacted or permitted and no worker shall be entitled to overtime pay or extra time unless he shall work 48 hours in said full week (or 36 hours where a holiday intervenes), except in the case of illness or other unavoidable cause.

The employer shall guarantee to each worker who shall be employed on the first day of any week the opportunity to work at least 44 hours in such week, or 36 hours where a holiday intervenes, exclusive of overtime or extra time, and in default of providing such employment shall pay the worker full time for such hours, exclusive of overtime and extra time.

The locomotive company is ordered to pay for all time worked over 48 hours in any one week since May 1 last and double time for work done on Sundays and legal holidays.

LIVING COSTS STILL SOAR.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The high cost of living is still on its way skyward, according to figures made public by the bureau of labor statistics.

Reports for the month of July, this year, show an increase of 3 per cent in retail food prices over prices for the previous month.

Compared with July 15 last year, all articles of food combined show a price increase of 15 per cent.

For the five-year period July 15, 1913, to July 15, 1918, prices increased 69 per cent. Meal advanced 121 per cent, potatoes 105 per cent, lard 1?1 per cent and flour 102 per cent. Every article for which the bureau has secured prices has advanced at least 50 per cent.

In the price advance of 15 per cent in one year only beans, potatoes, flour, coffee and bread were cheaper. Plate boiling beef and chuck roast advanced 36 and 33 per cent and sirloin steak 29 per cent. Hens were 36 per cent higher. Lard, pork chops, bacon, ham and lamb showed increases ranging from 19 per cent for lard to 25 per cent for lamb.

ARIZONA MOBBERS LOSE.

Tombstone, Ariz., Oct. 19.—Leaders of the "Loyalty" league mob that deported 1,200 Bisbee miners a year ago last July have lost their first fight to escape punishment.

The mobbers have retained an imposing array of legal talent. These attorneys centered their fire on the indictments, which Judge Lockwood of the superior court was asked to invalidate on the ground that the law requires the signatures of attorneys to be written thereon, but in this case they were printed. Judge Lockwood ruled that the printed signatures are sufficient, as that complies with the spirit of the law.

Newspapers dominated by copper interests in this state attempted to create an "atmosphere" friendly to the mobbers and insisted on strict compliance with law where men are charged with crime. These newspapers adopted other tactics when 1,200 working men were denied every constitutional right and were rushed out of Bisbee like a herd of cattle.

PLAN NIGHT SCHOOLS.

Washington, Oct. 19.—To train thousands of ship builders for the 174 ship yards night schools will be established in every section of the United States under a division of the United States shipping board emergency fleet corporation, in co-operation with the federal board for vocational education. The fleet corporation will furnish text books and other material and state and city authorities are expected to furnish the instructors and the places where schools may convene. It will be necessary to comb ship yards and industrial schools of the country for competent teachers.

SECURE EQUAL WAGE.

Boston, Oct. 19—A strike of union waiters and cooks employed by the Exchange club forced the management to pay equal wage to its women employes who have replaced men assigned to war work. The men were paid $10 a week and the women were receiving but $6 until the union took charge of affairs.

San Francisco, Oct. 19—Waiters' union No. 30 has secured its first contract with the St. Francis, Palace and Fairmont, leading hotels in this city. Wages are increased 50 cents a day, making the rate $2.50.

FISH DISPUTE SETTLED.

Gloucester, Mass., Oct. 19.—An arbitrator has settled a dispute between the Gorton-Pew Fisheries company and its fish cutters. The work week will be 54 hours during the five winter months and 50 hours during the remaining seven months, with time and one-half for the extra four hours and for Sundays and holidays. The men asked for a straight 50-hour week.

R. R. EARNINGS BIG.

New York, Oct. 19.—The Southern railway reports that its earnings last year totaled $14,037,425. After preferred dividends were paid, there remained funds equal to 18.4 per cent on the common stock.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 19.—Stationary Firemen's union No. 55 has secured a wage increase of $1 a week for all members employed in local breweries.

LIVING COSTS IN LORAIN.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The bureau of labor statistics reports that the expenditures for the average family in Lorain, Ohio, is $1,422.?? a year.

IMPRESSED BY CO-OPS.

Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 19.—Returning from a trade union organizing trip through Illinois, H. S. McCluskey, of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' International union, writes interestingly in the Arizona Labor Journal of his impressions while a visitor to the convention of the Central Co-operative society at Springfield, Ill.

"The reports," he says, "were full of general interest and proved the necessity of the organization as the last link in the chain that the workers are forging for their liberation.

"The interests of the union movement and the co-operative movement were so closely linked together in the discussion it was difficult to distinguish one from the other. It was shown that for a co-operative store to be successful, it depended upon the stability of employment and a small labor turnover. This meant the necessity for a strong union capable of protecting the interests of its members.

"It was shown where the co-operative store is in successful operation all the merchants had been compelled to pay a living wage to their employes and establish union hours and working conditions; that the co-operative stores were the chief support of union labeled goods in the towns in which they operated, and that the union labor papers were enabled to obtain their share of the advertising from the other merchants of the communities, with the result that the combined influence of the union labor movement, with its union labels and press and the co-operative movement, with its control of the purchasing powers of its members, were not only able to reduce the unreasonable, extortionate and unnecessary increased cost of living, but was a powerful influence in curbing the profiteering tendences of some of the other independent merchants."

REGULATE MEAL COSTS.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The food administrator of the District of Columbia and proprietors of nearly 100 eating places have agreed on a standard menu to feed war workers (not mechanics) nourishing food for $1 a day.

The following three meals for $1 are recommended: Breakfast, consisting of an egg, coffee and toast, 20 cents; luncheon, consisting of baked beans, bread and butter, 15 cents, and dinner, consisting of soup, meat or fish, potatoes or rice and one other vegetable, desert and coffee, tea or milk, bread and butter, 65 cents.

The 20-cent breakfast consists of fruit in season, hot cakes, with butter or syrup, and coffee. The 25-cent luncheon consists of veal or lamb stew, with bread and butter. Four ounces of beef stew, with bread and butter, is listed on the menu at 20 cents. Breakfast without beverages should be 5 cents less. A 10-cent charge for ham, tongue, cheese, salmon or egg sandwiches was approved by the food administration.

PEACE TALK NOT SINCERE.

Washington, Oct. 19.—In a cable from Rome to A. F. of L. headquarters President Gompers made this comment on Germany's latest peace offer:

"The offer of an armistice is nothing more than another maneuver of Germany and the central powers to weaken the solidarity of the allied democracies and their will to fight for the destruction of imperialism, militarism and autocracy, and thereby to patch up a peace that will menace the peace of the world again when the German government is even better prepared.

"The German, Austrian and Turkish militaristic system must be beaten and its makeup must know that it has been thoroughly beaten. The safety of labor and of the people generally demand from the central powers their unconditional surrender or that their military menace be crushed. This is the judgment of not only the American labor mission now in Rome but of all with whom we have come in contact."

HALF-YEAR COAL RECORD.

Washington, Oct. 19.—More coal was mined from April 1 to September 22 than ever before in any half-year period in the history of the American coal industry. This record, says the fuel administration, was established in the face of many handicaps, chief of which was the shortage of workers. From 50,000 to 60,000 miners have been inducted into military service and probably as many more have left the mines to work in war industry plants.

Despite this loss, however, bituminous tonnage was 311,218,000, or 12 per cent more than was turned out in the corresponding period last year, regarded then as a top mark. Anthracite production was 51,651,000 tons, an increase of 2.1 per cent.

TO PROTECT LIFE.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Major General Williams, chief of ordnance, has notified all branches of his department that inspectors of the United States public health service must be admitted to ordnance plants in the interest of sanitation, health and mechanical safety.

Persons representing themselves to be inspectors of the public health service should carry a photographic identification pass and letter from a responsible officer of the public health service or the ordnance department, addressed to the plants and stating the purpose of the visit.

MORE PAY FOR FIREMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 19.—The city council has checked wholesale resignations by municipal firemen because of low wages. The city dads pledge themselves to award substantial increases at the beginning of the fiscal year. The fire fighters have been insistent in their claim that $100 a month was insufficient to support their families and clothe themselves as befit this dangerous calling.

DAYIGHT LAW MAY STAY.

Washington, Oct. 19 — The senate has passed a bill which will maintain the present daylight-saving law until rescinded by congress. The measure is urged by the war industries board. Under the present law the clocks will be turned back an hour on October 27.

BROOM MAKERS GAIN.

Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 19.—The Twin City Broom company has signed a union-shop agreement with its organized broom makers. Rates are advanced from $4.80 a day to $6.

STAGE EMPLOYES GAIN.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 19.—Theater managers have raised wages of stage employes $5 a week, after several negotiations with this union. Extra men are also advanced.

W. U. LOSES NOTHING BY FEDERAL CONTROL

Washington, Oct. 19—By an agreement with the post office department and the Western Union Telegraph company the interests of this concern, which is now under government control, are fully protected and dividends will continue their uninterrupted flow. The government, according to a published statement by President Carlton of the company, agrees to pay all interest on outstanding bonds, all dividends and interest payments due on stocks and bonds of subsidiary companies, all taxes and operating charges and in addition $8,000,000 annually to insure the present rate of dividends on the company's stock.

"Viewed in every aspect the contract is a fair one to the telegraph company and the government," says President Carlton.

"The contract leaves to the company all its non-operating income and the income from its eight transatlantic cables. The government likewise to carry the plan of the company for pensions for employes, disability and death benefits, and also maintain all reserves for depreciation and amortizations upon the same basis as the telegraph company has maintained them. The government further provides for the continued maintenance and operation of the property in as efficient a condition as when taken over and the return of the property to the telegraph company in such a condition on the termination of federal control.

"The telegraph company will loan each year the sum of $1,000,000 without interest toward financing approved additional extensions; funds required for these purposes beyond such amount to be furnished by the postmaster general. If new securities are required to be issued by the telegraph company the government pays the interest, dividends or other costs of such securities issued in exchange, discharge or renewal of existing obligations."

UNION METHODS URGED.

London, England, Oct. 19.—The recent English railway strike was not caused by organized labor, but by "disorganized labor—mere bolshevism"—says Reynolds's Newspaper.

This publication, which is among the most forward looking in England, declares that the welfare of the workers depends upon a strict observance of trade union methods.

"We have a firm and unalterable conviction," says this paper, "that it is in the power of organized labor to adjust the bases of industry in this country so that it shall receive a full and just reward for its exertions, and see that those who have, for no adequate service, taken toll of the labor of those who toil shall find no such chance in the future. This it may do legally and in pursuance of the sound principles on which trade unionism is based. Its progress will be like the march of a disciplined army. Anything that tends to destroy that progress is a danger to labor. It is not trade unionism at all, but just bolshevism. And those who hope to gain from disorganization and disunion the things they would gain from unity of purpose and action are blind leaders of the blind."

TRADE UNIONISM GROWS.

Washington, Oct 19.—A publicity service maintained by the department of labor reports that trade unions in Scandinavian countries have increased their membership since the war began. In Sweden the membership increased 45,334 during the year just ended, making the total membership 186,146. Women trade unionists have increased from 8,233 to 14,462.

In Norway the increase is about 14,000 since last year with a present total membership of 93,000. Although there were 559 industrial disturbances during the year, there were only 44 strikes, affecting 2,000 men.

Within the year Denmark's unions have added 22,162 members, and now have a strength of 179,284 of which 27,776 are women. Efforts to entice Danish workmen to Germany have for the most part failed, it is declared.

FORCED TO ACCEPT 8 HOURS.

Wheeling, W. Va., Oct. 19.—It was necessary for representatives of the department of labor to acquaint the West Virginia Aircraft company with the government's labor policy before the management came down from its "high horse." Carpenters were forced to work nine and one-half hours a day and when they attempted to protest their committee was denied recognition. To force matters they refused to work longer than eight hours and the company locked them out.

Government representatives secured a settlement which establishes the eight-hour day with pay for overtime.

ORGANIZE IN QUICK TIME.

York, Pa., Oct. 19.—Motormen and conductors employed by the York Railways company packed a whole lot of action in one 24 hours. They were unorganized when they asked the company to raise wages. The company balked, the men started to form a union and so did the company. The men rejected the company's "union" and with almost a 100 per cent organization behind them, these workers, now union men, secured recognition of their organization, wage increases and shorter hours.

COKE OVEN ACCIDENTS.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Reports received by the bureau of mines from operators of coke ovens show an increase in the number of fatalities and injuries during the calendar year 1916 as compared with previous years. The number of men killed in 1917 was 76, as compared with 45 in 1916.

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 19.—In their last report on organization, officers of the Switchmen's union state that charters have been issued in the following localities: Belle Plaine, Iowa; Helena, Mont.; Boston, Mass.; Kent, Ohio; Evenville, Ind., and Altoona, Pa.

TYPOS GET WAR BONUS.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 19.—Commercial print shop employers have announced a war bonus of $3 a week for their printers.

WIN UNION SHOP.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct 19.—Employing bakers have signed a union-shop agreement with bakery salesmen.

UNION SHIP BUILDERS SMASH WORLD RECORD

Aberdeen, Wash., Oct. 19.—Union ship builders employed by the Grays Harbor Motor Ship corporation launched a 4,000-ton wooden ship in a little less than eighteen days, and challenge anti-unionists to even duplicate this record. The best previous record for a vessel of this type was 47 days.

These ship builders not only smashed the world's record, but they took charge of the launching ceremonies. The vessel was christened by a woman employe who had been chosen by ballot by the workers, and the unionists also selected three women to act as maids of honor for the sponsor.

After the launching government inspectors reported that the superstructure of the hull was 95.73 per cent completed, the engine installation 40 per cent, while the dining room, house, officers' quarters and all the other state rooms were 100 per cent complete and ready for immediate occupancy.

The unionists show that this job was not done under the long-hour system, but three shifts, each working seven and one-half hours each, made it possible for them to maintain top speed.

"WAR CHANGES OPINION."

Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 19.—"We are not as fearful of quite a few things as we used to be," says the Railroad Trainman, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, in discussing government control of railroads.

"The railroad labor organizations never have been committed to a policy of government control of anything; they are not so committed now, but there is a chance that they will not be so conservative in the future."

The Railroad Trainman says that so far as wages and service conditions go the results are better than they would have been under private management.

"Other questions of equally great concern are yet to be solved," continues this paper.

"We are working and fighting for government by the people, and not by a few office holders, and it is not our idea of democracy to deny the right to hold office on the ground that a man out of office enjoys a greater degree of self-government than he will if he becomes an active legislative or official part of that government. We accept no such doctrine now or at any other time. We don't propose to give up our political rights any more than we do to surrender our industrial rights. We don't propose to let anybody lead us up an alley simply because he believes it is a good place for us to be. We belong on Political Main street and we propose to stay there.

"This is one situation, possible under government ownership, that clearly is not an advantage."

MORE MEN FOR WAR WORK.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Emphasis on a proper understanding by the people of the necessities of the war and the shortage of labor is contained in a statement by Chairman Baruch of the war industries board. He points out that ship yards and ordnance plants alone are short 310,000 men, and the war industries board and the labor department's employment service are working on plans to tap the less essential industries.

Mr. Baruch alluded to the number of private chauffeurs and suggested that a great number of these men could go into more essential employment. He said he was informed that there are more than 150,000 traveling salesmen, and 100,000 hotel waiters, buss boys, etc., and added that the occasion demands a transfer of men from such employment to essential war work.

SADIE GOMPERS IS DEAD.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Miss Sadie Gompers, only daughter of President Gompers and Mrs. Gompers, died in this city after a two-days' illness with influenza. Interment was private. President Gompers was in Italy with the American labor mission at the time of the tragic occurrence.

Miss Gompers was an accomplished singer, and she was well known to trade unionists because of the many conventions and public meetings she had attended with her father. The high esteem in which she was held was indicated by the telegrams and floral offerings received at the family residence from trade unionists and other friends in every section of the country.

PRISON PROFITS A MYTH.

Jackson, Mich., Oct. 19.—Stories that the state penitentiary, located in this city, made $300,000 last year and is self-supporting are doubted by Warden Hulburt. In fact, the penitentiary executive would like to see the color of this money, and has notified the board of control that the prison is not self-supporting, and that the state must aid it financially.

"The former administration," said the warden, "had been so crazy to make money that proper precautions were not taken to safeguard the health of inmates."

PLAN LUNCH FOR SCHOOLS.

New York, Oct. 19.—Lunch centers in public schools will become a part of the city educational system if plans discussed by the board of education are carried out. It was reported to the board that lunch centers are desirable. The board recommended that $50,000 be included in next year's budget for this purpose and officers were instructed to prepare a resolution to accompany the report for presentation to the board of estimates.

UNION STOPS GOUGE.

Oakland, Cal., Oct. 19.—Organized girl cannery workers have forced a canning establishment to hand over back pay because of short weight. The concern was profiteering to the extent of 20 pounds on every box until the girls walked out and demanded restitution.

PAINTERS TO GET $7.

Sacramento, Cal., Oct. 19.—Employing painters have accepted the $7-a-day scale of Painters' union, effective in 90 days.

JEWELRY WORKERS GAIN.

San Francisco, Oct. 19—A score of firms have signed union-shop contracts with the Jewelry Workers' union.